

## Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

PC-01 SY-05 SCCT-01 OPR-02 A-01 /080 W

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R 100815Z SEP 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3551

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

COMIDEASTFOR

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0768

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJECT: EVENTS IN ASMARA: EPMG PREPARES FOR ANNIVERSARY OF  
REVOLUTION

1. EPMG AUTHORITIES ARE APPARENTLY TAKING MEASURES TO REINFORCE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS IN ASMARA AREA IN PREPARATION FOR ANNIVERSARY OF REVOLUTION CELEBRATION SEPT. 13. THESE MEASURES INCLUDE ARRIVAL AUG. 30 OF APPROXIMATELY ONE BATTALION OF INFANTRY AND TWO PANHARD ARMORED CARS; REPORTED ARRIVAL OF SIX RECON-TYPE APCs SEPT. 8; AND GENERAL REINFORCEMENT OF SECURITY PERIMETER AND CHECKPOINTS AROUND ASMARA. WHILE MILITARY ACTIVITY IN DOWNTOWN ASMARA HAS NOT INCREASED MARKEDLY, EPMG HAS STATED ITS DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN ORDER DURING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. LOCAL NEWSPAPERS REPORT THAT CELEBRATIONS WILL  
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INCLUDE 21-GUN SALUTE TO BE FIRED AT 6 A.M., FOLLOWED BY

PARADE OF LOCAL MILITARY GROUPS AND CIVILIAN ORGANIZATIONS  
ENDING AT 9:30 A.M. IN QUEEN OF SHEBA STADIUM. SENIOR  
LOCAL OFFICIALS INCLUDING CONSULAR CORPS WILL ATTEND CEREMONY  
AT STADIUM, WHICH WILL FEATURE ADDRESS FROM BG GETACHEW NADEW,  
MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR FOR ERITREA. THE CELEBRATION WILL  
PROBABLY BE SUBDUED AS LOCAL RESIDENTS CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO  
BRING MUCH ENTHUSIASM TO AN EPMG-SPONSORED CEREMONY.

2. WHILE THESE PRECAUTIONS ARE BEING INSTITUTED, SERIES OF  
MINOR YET DISQUIETING INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN ASMARA AREA.  
THESE INCIDENTS INCLUDE REPORTED ASSASSINATION BY FRONT OF  
SIX OR POSSIBLY SEVEN EPMG "INFORMERS" DURING WEEK OF SEPT. 1  
(INCLUDING CO AND EXO OF EPMG PROVISIONAL UNIT KNOWN AS  
"ASMARA MILITIA"); THEFT AUG. 31 OF 260 HEAD OF PRIME DAIRY  
CATTLE (OUT OF HERD OF 300) BELONGING TO LARGE LOCAL FOOD  
PROCESSING FIRM, SALUMIFICIO TORINESE; AND FIGHTING SEPT. 8  
AND 9 FIFTEEN MILES WNW OF ASMARA IN AREA OF ZAZEGA,  
INCLUDING ARTILLERY BARRAGE AND TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT WHICH  
CLEARLY AUDIBLE IN CITY OF ASMARA.

3. COMMENT: ASMARA RESIDENTS GENERALLY DO NOT ANTICIPATE ANY  
LARGE-SCALE FRONT ACTIVITY IN CITY OF ASMARA PRIOR TO CELE-  
BRATION AS WIDESPREAD REPRISALS COULD BE EXPECTED FROM TENSE  
AND ALERTED EPMG SECURITY FORCES.  
SHERRY

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## Message Attributes

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